

NOTE FOR THE FILE

On 9 March 1978 I received a call from Dave Barrett, at the Department of Justice. Mr. Barrett called to tell me that the transcript of Attorney General Bell's testimony before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights was received by Justice and was available for my review. I told Mr. Barrett I would try to arrange a morning early next week to review the testimony. I asked Mr. Barrett if he knew off hand whether Justice had drafted an amendment to the Federal Tort Claims Act, as they said they would, to insulate U.S. Government employees overseas from personal liability for constitutional torts. Mr. Barrett said that while he is not personally involved in the matter, he believes that the amendment is still in the drafting/negotiating phase and nothing to date has been proposed. He suggested I contact Mike Dolan, at Justice, with regard to the issue.

I called the Senate Judiciary Committee to request information regarding the Committee's plans to hold hearings on an FBI charter sometime in April (14 Congressional Monitor 7, 6 March 1978). I was put in touch with David Dixon on the staff, and he informed me that the staff hopes to have something scheduled for 20-21 April. No witnesses to date have been scheduled but the Committee would like to start off with Mr. Webster. While the hearings to be scheduled will be basically "background" hearings, the staff may, according to Mr. Dixon, have a bill or at least guidelines prepared before the hearings. Mr. Dixon said he would be glad to talk with me further as things develop with regard to the hearings and indicated that if he is not available I might ask for Bill Westfal.


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